

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of claims in this application.

1.-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A multilayer system for the extreme ultraviolet wavelength range, comprising:

alternating layers of materials with different refractive indices or absorption coefficients, and a protective layer system having different material than said alternating layers and being disposed on top of said alternating layers, wherein the protective layer system is molybdenum carbide covered by iridium, aluminum oxide covered by iridium, titanium nitride covered by iridium, or titanium dioxide covered by iridium, ~~or wherein the protective layer system comprises at least silicon nitride.~~

35. (Currently Amended) A multilayer system for the extreme ultraviolet wavelength range, comprising:

alternating layers of a) molybdenum and silicon or b) molybdenum and beryllium, and a protective layer system disposed on said alternating layers, wherein the protective layer system is molybdenum carbide covered by iridium, aluminum oxide covered by iridium, titanium nitride covered by iridium or titanium dioxide covered by iridium, ~~or wherein the protective layer system comprises at least silicon nitride~~

36.-43.(Canceled)

44. (New) A multilayer system for the extreme ultraviolet wavelength range, comprising:

alternating layers of materials with different refractive indices or absorption coefficients, and at least one barrier layer between two of said alternating layers, wherein said at least one barrier layer is a Mo₂C layer, and wherein a first layer of said alternating layers is a molybdenum layer and a second layer of said alternating layers is a beryllium layer.

45. (New) A multilayer system for the extreme ultraviolet wavelength range, comprising:

alternating layers of materials with different refractive indices or absorption coefficients and at least one barrier layer between two of said alternating layers, wherein said at least one barrier layer is a Si_3N_4 layer.

46. (New) The multilayer system according to claim 45, wherein said at least one barrier layer contains implanted nitrogen.

47. (New) The multilayer system according to claim 45, wherein a first layer of said alternating layers is a molybdenum layer and a second layer of said alternating layers is a silicon layer.